

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

In the Drawings:

Please replace the drawings filed on July 8, 1998, with the twenty four (24) sheets of replacement drawings filed concurrently herewith.

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

At the outset, Applicants would like to thank Examiner Urban for the courtesies extended to Applicants' representative during the telephone conference on April 18, during which the pending Quayle Action was discussed.

Under Paragraph 1.i, the Office Action alleges that the amendment filed on September 11, 2003, is defective due to informalities associated with the claim amendments presented therein.¹ Applicants note that a Supplemental Amendment was filed on January 19, 2006, which addressed the informalities alleged in the current Office Action. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

Under Paragraph 1.ii, the Office Action alleges that a supplemental declaration is required.² This requirement was apparently discussed during a telephone conference between Examiner Vuong and Applicants' representative on or about September 29, 2005. Applicants note that the supplemental declaration was filed on January 19, 2006. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

Under Paragraph 1.iii, the Office Action alleges that the assent and 3.73(b) certification are defective.³ Applicants note that neither an assent nor a 3.73(b) certification have been filed. To the extent that a statement under Rule 3.73(b) is now required by the Office Action, such statement is filed concurrently herewith to overcome the objection.

Under Paragraph 1.iv, the Office Action alleges that the drawings were objected to by a draftsman.⁴ Applicants note that the formal drawings filed on July 8, 1998, are identical to the drawings that issued with the original patent, i.e., U.S. Patent No. 5,535,430, and, further, that no objection by the draftsman is of record within the IFW. However, a replacement set of drawings is filed concurrently herewith to overcome the objection.

¹ See, Office Action at Page 2.

² *Id.*

³ *Id.*

⁴ *Id.*

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks presented herein, Applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance and should now be passed to issue.

A Notice of Allowance is respectfully solicited.

If any extension of time is required in connection with the filing of this paper and has not been requested separately, such extension is hereby requested.

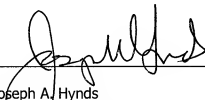
The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees and to credit any overpayments that may be required by this paper under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17 to Deposit Account No. 02-2135.

Respectfully submitted,

June 1, 2007

#1399551_1

By: _____


Joseph A. Hynds
Registration No. 34,627
Rothwell, Figg, Ernst & Manbeck P.C.
1425 K Street, N.W., Suite 800
Washington, D.C. 20005
(202) 783-6040 (voice)
(202) 783-6031 (fax)